

**Congressman Fred Upton (MI-06)**

157 South Kalamazoo Mall
Suite 180 - Mall Plaza
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4814
VOICE (269) 385-0039
FAX (269) 385-2888
<http://upton.house.gov>

**E-MAIL TRANSMISSION**

To: GSA Date: 04-30 -, 2013

E-Mail: gsa.congressionalaffairs@gsa.gov Pages: 2 incl. cover

From: ☐ Lynn Turner lynn.turner@mail.house.gov
☐ Nivia Marquis nivia.marquis@mail.house.gov
☒ Mitzi Fitzpatrick mitzi.fitzpatrick@mail.house.gov
☐ Intern _____

Subject:

Mr. Ted Hartridge
Page 2

April 30, 2013

Dear Congressman Upton,

I give you permission to look into my difficulties with the U.S. General Services Administration.
I understand that this form is being used in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974.

Signature: _____

NAME: Mr. Ted Hartridge

ADDRESS: 1811 Factory St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM (please print):

Kalamazoo Plastics has repeatedly tried to convert its
CCR Registration to registering with SFAM (System for Award Management)

CCR - Gage / NCAEE:

DUNS:

We created a new user name account

We received "account validation" email

We received "migration of Legacy System: Pending Validation"

We went back into the system prior to the 48 hours to activate,
could not get access into the SFAM portal with repeated
attempts.

(If more space is needed, please use back of page.)

Should we start over again? Tremendous use
of time.

Ted Hartridge



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 6, 2015

DC OFFICE:

☐ 2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2206
(202) 225-3761
FAX: (202) 225-4986

MICHIGAN HOME OFFICES:

☐ 157 SOUTH KALAMAZOO MALL
SUITE 180
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007
(269) 385-0039
FAX: (269) 385-2888

720 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085
(269) 982-1986
FAX: (269) 982-0237

<http://upton.house.gov>

Ms. Lisa Austin
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW, Room 6105
Washington, DC 20405-0002

Dear Ms. Austin,

I write to request your assistance with a community and economic development project, which is dependent upon further action by the General Services Administration (GSA). Since March 2013, representatives of the City of Benton Harbor have been working towards ensuring a greater use for a building previously utilized by the federal government.

During August 2000, the building, located at 175 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, was conveyed to the City of Benton Harbor, through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Historic Surplus Property Program. During November 2013, the National Park Service in writing to the GSA Great Lakes Region Office, recommended abrogation of the building. Despite repeated communication with the GSA Great Lakes Region office, since the recommendation for abrogation by the National Park Service, I am unaware of any significant movement in the abrogation process.

The City of Benton Harbor intends to sell the former federal building to a third party. The third party has committed to the revitalization of the building, which in turn will provide a tremendous economic benefit to the community. The third party bolsters a record of commercial and residential development projects which have had a significant positive impact for the City of Benton Harbor.

It is my desire to always provide timely assistance to the people I represent, and I ask for your assistance in providing the same from the GSA. It is my hope that you will assist in ascertaining the current status of this request within the GSA. In addition, I would like your assistance in determining a mutually agreeable timeframe to move this project forward.

Ms. Lisa Austin

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I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. It is best to contact me or my District Director, Mr. Clay McCausland, through my St. Joseph / Benton Harbor District Office, (269) 982-1986, Clay.McCausland@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Upton", with a stylized, cursive script.

Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 9, 2015

DC OFFICE:

☐ 2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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Ms. Denise Turner Roth, Acting Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20405-0002

Administrator Roth,

I write to request your assistance with a community and economic development project which is dependent upon further action by the General Services Administration (GSA). Since March 2013, representatives of the City of Benton Harbor, Michigan have been working towards ensuring a greater use for a building previously utilized by the federal government.

During August 2000, the building located at 175 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, was conveyed to the City of Benton Harbor, through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), Historic Surplus Property Program. During November 2013, the NPS recommended abrogation of this building, and notified the GSA Great Lakes Region Office of this decision.

As has been communicated to the GSA on multiple occasions, the City of Benton Harbor intends to sell the former federal building to a local developer. The developer has committed to the revitalization of the building, which is located in what has become the center of the Benton Harbor Arts District. The developer bolsters a record of commercial and residential development projects which have had a significant impact on the revitalization of Benton Harbor.

Following the approval for abrogation by NPS in November 2013, officials from the City of Benton Harbor have attempted to work with the GSA to move the abrogation process forward. In addition, my staff has contacted the GSA on many occasions, at the request of the city, in an effort to open the lines of communication in order move this project forward. After those efforts failed to produce substantive movement, on January 6, 2015, I wrote to Ms. Lisa Austin, Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, to solicit her assistance.

On February 20, 2015, Ms. Austin wrote, "GSA is working with the city and the NPS to address a number of matters related to the abrogation since it was proposed. First, GSA reviewed the original conveyance and found that abrogation could, in fact, be considered. Next, GSA determined the property's fair market value, as the provisions for abrogation require the city to pay the federal government that amount. Also, since the property is historically significant, GSA is obligated to ensure continued preservation and maintenance after abrogation. GSA has completed its initial valuation review and prepared protective covenants for acceptance by NPS and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), pending an inspection of the property."

The letter goes on to state that after an inspection of the property and meeting with local officials to discuss the details of potential abrogation, "if and when the city agrees to the terms of abrogation and NPS and the Michigan SHPO approve the proposed covenants, GSA will be able to complete this transaction in 60 days." More than 60 days later, I am unaware of any significant movement in this process.

Two years after the GSA was initially approached regarding ensuring this property served a greater public benefit, on March 5, 2015, Mr. Joseph O'Bradovic, Chief of GSA's Chicago Operations Branch, Real Property Utilization & Disposal Division traveled to Benton Harbor and met with Mr. Darwin Watson, Benton Harbor City Manager, Ms. Marja Winters, Benton Harbor Assistant City Manager, counsel for the City of Benton Harbor, local community and economic developers, and a member of my staff. In addition, representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Michigan SHPO joined the meeting via telephone. During the meeting, Mr. O'Bradovic discussed the remaining steps in the abrogation process, which included the city and GSA agreeing to an appropriate value for compensation and consultation with SHPO for the creation of an appropriate covenant document. This is the same information as has been shared on multiple occasions – from which no significant action has been taken by GSA. Attendees of the meeting were advised by Mr. O'Bradovic that it was not unreasonable for the remaining steps of the process to be completed in 90 days. More than 90 days later, I am unaware of any significant movement in this process.

As a former city manager, I am sure you can appreciate the tenacity with which officials from the City of Benton Harbor have worked to move this important project forward. Despite their efforts, the process remains at a standstill.

I have always worked to provide timely assistance to the people I represent, and I ask for your assistance in providing the same from the GSA. It is my hope that you will assist in ascertaining the current status of this request within the GSA, and provide an accurate account of what steps are remaining. In addition, I would like your assistance in determining a mutually agreeable timeline to move this project forward.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and assistance. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. It is best to contact me or my District Director, Mr. Clay McCausland, through my St. Joseph / Benton Harbor District Office, (269) 982-1986, Clay.McCausland@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Member of Congress